

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT ELIOT JANEWAY BYLINER THE WASHINGTON STAR WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1 HEADED "KISSINGER NEED: LESSON ON OIL."

2. NATIONAL UNITY SEEMED HOPELESSLY OUT OF REACH ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER TWO. THIS WEEK FINDS IT A MIRACULOUS REALITY AGAIN. INCOMING PRESIDENT CARTER AND OUTGOING SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAVE ARRIVED AT A MEETING OF MINDS, AND THAT IN ITSELF GUARANTEES A NEW NATIONAL CONSENSUS.

3. WITH CHARACTERISTIC DRAMATIC SUSPENSE, KISSINGER SET THE STAGE FOR HIS HISTORIC VISIT TO CARTER'S HOME TOWN BY SETTING UP A DECOY. HE CONFIDED TO THE REPORTERS IN HIS ENTOURAGE THAT HE HAD HAD TROUBLE FINDING PLAINS ON THE MAP. BUT THAT WAS BEFORE HE CAME, SAW AND CONQUERED--AFTER
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HIS FASHION.

4. BY THE TIME KISSINGER'S WHIRLWIND BRIEFING SESSION WITH THE PRESIDENT-ELECT WAS BEHIND HIM, CARTER CONGRATULATED HIM FOR HAVING "PUT PLAINS ON THE MAP." AS THE SAYING GOES, KISSINGER DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAD BEEN DONE TO HIM UNTIL HE TURNED HIS HEAD TO SMILE AND SAY GOODBYE.

5. THE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CARTER AND FORD WAS MORE LIKE A PILLOW FIGHT. AS THE CHALLENGER, CARTER HAS KNOWN THAT HIS REAL QUARRY IS KISSINGER, THE INCUMBENT POLICYMAKER.

6. IN FACT, HE WON THE ELECTION WHEN HE WON THE SECOND DEBATE BY PICKING UP THE THESIS OF THESE COLUMNS--THAT KISSINGER HAS MANNED THE POLICYMAKING CONTROLS OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION, AND THAT FORD HAS BEEN CONTENT TO FRONT FOR HIS ALL-KNOWING HAND-ME-DOWN FROM NIXON.

7. THE TEST OF KISSINGER'S STEWARDSHIP, LIKE THE CHALLENGE TO CARTER'S LEADERSHIP, CENTERS ON ONE WASHINGTON POLICY-MAKING ISSUE: PRICE-FIXING BY THE WORLD OIL CARTEL.

8. THE OPERATIONS OF THE CARTEL MEMBERS ARE ENTIRELY ILLEGAL BY ANY AMERICAN STANDARD, AND THEREFORE, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT KOWTOWS TO OPEC DECREES AS COMPULSIVELY AS IT CRACKS DOWN ON ANY AMERICAN BUSINESS SUSPECTED OF PLAYING THE SAME GAME.

9. KISSINGER HAS A PROBLEM WITH OIL PRICES. HIS RECORD IS SHOWING AND HE IS UNDERSTANDABLY ANXIOUS TO INVITE CARTER TO SHARE IT WITH HIM. KISSINGER HAS DEVELOPED A VESTED INTEREST IN DEMONSTRATING THAT THERE'S NO WAY WASHINGTON CAN PUT A SPOKE IN THE WHEEL OF PROGRESS REPRESENTED BY ANOTHER TURN OF THE PRICE SCREW.

10. "FOUR WEEKS BEFORE AN OPEC MEETING," HE SAID ON NOVEMBER EIGHTEEN, "THERE'S A GREAT DANGER THAT IF THE UNITED STATES THROWS ITSELF INTO DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY, IT WILL EMERGE AS A COMMON SCOLD." THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS MESSAGE WAS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NO ROOM TO MANEUVER, MUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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LESS ANY WALLOP.

11. KISSINGER WENT ON TO EXPLAIN HIS REASON FOR THROWING COLD WATER ON THE SUGGESTION THAT WASHINGTON CAN DO ANYTHING TO HEAD OFF ANOTHER RUINOUS INCREASE IN FUEL COSTS. HE SAID THAT COUNTRIES LIKE SAUDI ARABIA "CAN DRIVE THE PRICE UP SIMPLY BY KEEPING OIL PRODUCTION STEADY."

12. "YOU CAN'T TAKE ECONOMIC COUNTERMEASURES," HE SAID, "AGAINST A COUNTRY THAT IS REFUSING TO PRODUCE MORE OIL WHEN IT IS ALREADY RUNNING \$20 BILLION PLUS A YEAR."

13. THE FURTHER KISSINGER STAYS FROM ANY FACT OF ECONOMIC REALITY, THE BETTER OFF HE IS LIKELY TO BE.

14. HE IS QUITE RIGHT IN SINGLING OUT SAUDI ARABIA AS THE PLAY-MAKING OIL POWER; IT HAS THE OIL AND THE MONEY TO SUPPORT ITSELF ANY TIME IT DECIDES TO TURN OIL PRODUCTION OFF. THE FACT IS THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS KEPT IT TURNED ON.

15. THIS HELPS TO EXPLAIN ITS EXCHANGE OF SIGNALS WITH OUTGOING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY BILL SIMON. HE HAS ALL ALONG LED THE INSIDE OPPOSITION TO KISSINGER'S COMMITMENT TO THE APPEASEMENT OF THE OPEC EXTREMISTS.

16. SAUDI ARABIA'S DECISION TO RAISE OIL PRODUCTION IS HER WAY OF RECOGNIZING THAT HIGHER OIL PRICES GUARANTEE DEPRESSION, WHILE LOWER OIL PRICES OFFER AN OPTION ON PROSPERITY.

17. IN AN INTERVIEW IN BUSINESS WEEK, SHEIK YAMANI OF SAUDI ARABIA PROVIDED AN INDICATION OF HOW MILDLY THE OPEC WIND IS BLOWING.

18. HE SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD ACCEPT NO INCREASE ABOVE TEN PERCENT. THE TWENTY PERCENT INCREASE IN SAUDI ARABIAN PRODUCTION HAS BORNE HIM OUT, AND REFUTED THE OPEC EXTREMISTS WHO WERE SCREAMING FOR ANYTHING FROM A FIFTEEN TO THIRTY PERCENT BOOST.

19. BUT SHEIK YAMANI'S OTHERWISE AUTHORITATIVE REPRESENTA-
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TION OF THE OPEC POSITION FAILED BECAUSE IT CAME AFTER THE ADMISSION THAT ANY PRICE INCREASE WOULD BE "DEFERRED." IN PLAIN ENGLISH, THIS MEANT IT WAS OFF.

20. THERE'S A VERY SIMPLE, PRACTICAL CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN FROM THIS RADICAL SWITCH IN THE BARGAINING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OIL BUYERS AND SELLERS. THE OIL SELLERS HAVE LOST CONTROL OF THEIR MARKET. THE OIL BUYERS, WHO OUTNUMBER THE SELLERS, HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO COUNT THEIR BLESSINGS AND CASH IN ON THEM.

21. THREE YEARS AGO, MEMBERS OF THE WORLD OIL CARTEL WERE CROWING THAT THE AMERICAN MARKET WOULD SHUT WITHOUT THEIR SUPPLIES. KISSINGER IS STILL ECHOING THEIR CLAIMS. THE FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT THE MARKET FORCES IN THE WORKADAY

WORLD HAVE TURNED AGAINST THE CARTEL.

22. AMERICA'S PUBLIC IMAGE IS NOT THE ISSUE IN THE WORLD-WIDE TUSSLE OVER OIL PRICES. IT IS NOT AMERICA THAT IS IN DANGER OF BEING BRANDED "THE COMMON SCOLD." THE EXTREMIST MEMBERS OF THE CARTEL ARE INVITING THIS CRITICISM. THEY ARE TALKING PRICES UP AFTER THE MARKET TREND HAS BEGUN TO PUSH THEM DOWN.

23. IT'S TIME FOR KISSINGER EITHER TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL OR TO CATCH UP WITH THE CHANGE FOR THE BETTER THAT HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE UNDER HIS NOSE. (END OF TEXT.) ROBINSON

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